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LEGENDARY BALLADS.*

THIS volume is one that deserves high praise from all lovers of art. We select from it an engraving as an example of the effective style in which the ballads are illustrated—'Bacchus and the Water Thieves,' from the masterly pencil of John Tenniel, admirably engraved by Mr. Swain. The volume contains upwards of one hundred, all nearly as good as this; it is indeed a collection of engravings seldom equalled, and certainly never surpassed. The list of artists will sufficiently bear out the assertion; the engravers are not named, as we think they ought

to have been, for much of the issue of the costly undertaking must be the result of their work.

Four of the artists who drew the designs have died within the year—the year 1875—Messrs. Walker, Pinwell, Morten, and Lawless; and these may be regarded as their latest productions. They were the personal friends of the author, who refers to the loss the world has thus sustained.

The ballads are all original, and there are nearly a hundred of them, the scenes of which are laid at various epochs, in



several countries; the themes are Greek, Roman, Oriental, Norse, Saxon, English, Scotch, French, German, Swiss, Italian, and one American ("Duel in Arkansas"), besides a number of no particular people or kingdom, under the general term miscellaneous. With some of them we are familiar, and probably many have been previously published in periodical works. They will be new to most readers, but they will bear reading again and again, for there are not a few of them so admirable that

they may astonish while they delight, by amazing vigour in some cases, and touching tenderness in others. In fact, some may be pointed out as so grand or so beautiful as to merit conspicuous places in the ballad literature of the century, worthy to rank with the best that have been renowned for ages, and will live as long as the language in which they are written.

To the print we select the author thus refers:—"How finely the artist has given the shrinking of the young god's limbs as the pirates wave their keen knives before his eyes, and threaten him with cruelty and torture. The picture seems to have risen like a beautiful vision out of my verses, yet the writer never imagined anything half so fair."

* "Historical and Legendary Ballads and Songs." By Walter Thornbury. Illustrated by J. Whistler, F. Walker, John Tenniel, J. D. Watson, W. Small, F. Sandys, C. J. Pinwell, T. Morten, M. J. Lawless, and others. Published by Chatto and Windus, London.